

Railroad Rates

Railroad rates to Winona will be the same as last year, one fare for the round trip. This is very reasonable. The rates at the hotel continue the same as last year, \$1.00 per day two in a room, \$1.25 one in a room. Cottages can be rented at very reasonable prices.

A New Kind of Gospel

It is reported that in a missionary address before a great Methodist congregation, in Chambersburg, Pa., Bishop C. C. McCabe said:

Oh, for one hour of Dewey in the Bosphorus. I long to see the day when Dewey will be before Constantinople demanding religious liberty for the Turks with the bombardment of the Turkish capital as the alternative.

On this the *Independent* remarks: "Is the enthusiastic bishop quite sure he is talking words of Christian wisdom? Is it certain that the kingdom of God is now to be preached by the mouth of cannon rather than by Paul's old way of foolishness?" True, every word. If the fifty thousand or more ministers in the United States would take up the plain old Gospel and preach it as Paul preached it, they would become a mightier force than all the Deweys with all the warships and guns of all the navies of the world. Guns destroy, the gospel saves. The latter was Christ's mission into the world. He was a Savior not a destroyer.

Dr. Buckley on Footwashing

Now and then a theologian bumps up against the thirteenth chapter of John's Gospel, and backs away rubbing his bruises. An experience of this kind happened to Dr. Buckley, editor of the *Christian Advocate*, and one of the most distinguished preachers and writers in the Northern Methodist church. An editorial in his paper, dated June 22, contains the following:

The arguments in support of the rite of foot-washing are not easily disposed of. Being snowed up on a train in Main for many hours, an attempt was made by a person on board to convert us to the proposition that there is as much argument for making a permanent rite of foot-washing as there is for making a permanent rite of the Holy Communion. While he stood on the plain words of John 13, he seemed almost impregnable. We have to confess that after much study of St. John we know of no way without the aid of ecclesiastical tradition to answer fully these German imitators of Christ's example.

This is a remarkable confession, coming from such a source. Unless ecclesiastical tradition can overthrow foot-washing as a church rite, it remains a binding obligation, and those Christians are in that respect and to that extent disobedient who refuse to practice it. But what is that ecclesiastical tradition by which the learned and brilliant Buckley seeks escape from foot-washing? We do not know of any except the lapse of the church during the second and third centuries from this, as well as from other doctrines

and practices of the apostolic church. If this tradition justifies the abandonment of foot-washing, it equally justifies the rejection of most of the other doctrines, even those which all regard as fundamental, and Dr. Buckley cherishes in his creed. As an argument against foot-washing it proves too much, and therefore doesn't prove anything. There is unquestioned historical evidence that the primitive church practiced foot-washing in the Christian assembly, and as a church rite. As a commentary upon John 13 this fact ought to satisfy any sincere investigator.

An Awful Record

If there is anything in this world that makes a record more awful than the saloon it must be an indescribable something, yet the superintendent of the Illinois State Reformatory declares that among boys the cigarette is worse than the saloon. At a national conference of charities and correction held in Cincinnati, in May, he gave an address on "The Relation of the Cigarette to Crime." After reciting his experience with boys coming to his institution, Mr. Torrence said, "I am sure cigarettes are destroying and making criminals of more of them than the saloons. Of 63 boys, averaging twelve years of age, 58 were cigarette smokers. Of 133, averaging fourteen years of age, 125 were cigarette smokers. Of 82, averaging fifteen years of age, 73 were cigarette smokers. This demonstrates that 92 per cent of the whole number were cigarette fiends at the time of committing crimes for which they were committed to the reformatory." With these facts before the public it ought to be made a crime for any young man to smoke a cigarette. It is a crime, a crime against his own body and a crime against society. It is an awful record the cigarette makes, a record of crime and insanity.

The *New Voice* reports the following under "A Poisoned Kiss." The reader is left to draw his own conclusion:

There was recently a notable dog show. I was there. Over the exhibition-room a sign was placed in large letters:

"No smoking allowed here. It will hurt the dogs."

A morning daily reported the inscription.

"Good!" exclaimed Hon. Percy Blount as he read it and laid down the newspaper and his cigar-stump. "I am glad the dogs were so well protected. Hard enough to be kenneled all day without having their air spoiled in the bargain. Now, a kiss for papa, darling, for he must be off" and, taking in his arms the idol of his heart, his two-year-old daughter, as fresh as a rose, he gave her a loving embrace and kiss. The child, shielding her lips with one tiny hand to prevent another, said:

"No, no, papa, your mouf bites."

The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.—*George Muller*.

If thou wouldst conquer thy weakness, thou must never gratify it.—*William Penn.*

National Conference Program

On another page we give this week the program prepared by the executive committee for the National Conference. The date, August 22 to 28, was agreed upon by the committee and received the sanction of the Park authorities before the conference of 1898 adjourned, tho it is possible that this date will have to be changed to one week later. Should any such change be required, announcement of the fact will be made thru the paper as early as possible. Those who have duties assigned them on the program should begin the work of preparation at once. Please note that you are limited to twenty-five minutes, and farther it is expected that you *write* what you have to say. Write and re-write, cut out, boil down, and crowd your thoughts in as few words as it is possible to do. Those whose names do not appear on the program have their duties to perform no less than those whose names are on it. The S. S. C. E. program will be announced later. Let us begin to agitate and begin now. Write about the conference, talk about it, preach about it, get everybody enthused over the prospect of a glorious conference. Begin to make preparation *now*, do not wait until the last day. We expect to have the best and most inspiring conference ever held by the Brethren church. Good as was our last conference, unless the coming one is better it will not be as good. The *Epworth Herald*, official organ of the Epworth League, after one of their conventions which was a great success, gives the following items under "What Made the Convention a Success:—"

Careful program-building.
Printer's ink.
A prompt president.
A secretary with sense.
Schedule time observed, and bell rung on long-winded participants.
Papers pointed and pungent.
No orators.
Much time given to the study of methods.
Chapter representatives told us "how they do it."
Question-box ran over with interrogation marks.
The great parliamentary hair-splitter absent.
The Bible magnified.
Missionary enthusiasm at white-heat.
Soulful singing.
Sincere confession and intelligent consecration.
The manifest and marvelous presence of the Holy Spirit to anoint and uplift.

A Definition of Religion

The New York Journal has been conducting a controversy with the Atheists which it has finally crystalized into a definition of true religion, as follows: "Humanity forms an organism, and the spirit which animates this organism is what we call God. Therefore our temporal and eternal happiness can be achieved only by seeking it thru the collective well being. Religion means nothing else in the world than our conviction of our individual selves to the universe around us, and the mystery around us."